Scholarships for Pupils of the Depressed Classes.

ORDER NO. E. 6220-1—EDN. 457-22-1, DATED 21ST MAY 1923.

Certain anomalies in the grant of scholarships to pupils belonging to the depressed classes have come to the notice of Government. Under the scheme of scholarships for pupils of backward classes generally, a certain proportion of the total grant is exclusively reserved for pupils of the depressed classes in Vernacular and Industrial Schools, the value of the Vernacular Class Scholarships being Rs. 900 per mensem. Pupils of depressed classes also come in for a share, in the proportion of their population, of the balance of the allotment open to pupils of all backward communities and this share amounts to Rs. 1,160 per mensem. Besides these, there is a separate scheme of scholarships to pupils of depressed classes for English education, and the scholarships under this scheme amount to Rs. 1,105 per mensem. The rates of the Depressed Class Scholarships awarded for the study of English are higher than those of the corresponding grade of Backward Class Scholarships. The existence of two different scales of scholarships awarded to pupils of the same class has created difficulties in administering the scholarships. It has also been represented that the rate of scholarships under the Backward Class Scholarships scheme is inadequate to the needs of pupils of depressed classes.

2. At the Educational Conference held by the Dewan in November last, a recommendation was made that the rates of scholarships to pupils of depressed classes under both of the above schemes should be made uniform. Government accept the recommendation and consider that in order to secure such uniformity the best course would be to bring together under one scheme the whole of the amount allotted under all the existing schemes for scholarships for general education to pupils of depressed classes.

3. The total amount available under all the schemes is Rs. 3,165 per mensem (for ten months) for boys and Rs. 5,000 per annum for girls or a total of Rs. 36,650 per annum. The existing scheme does not provide for scholarships in the Infant Vernacular classes and the number of scholarships available in the remaining Vernacular classes is only 350. Government consider that as a majority of the pupils of the depressed classes are in the lowest stages of instruction, a large number of scholarships should be made tenable in these grades. Five hundred scholarships each of the value of eight annas per mensem will therefore be awarded in future in the Infant and I Vernacular classes. The number of scholarships in the other Vernacular classes will be increased from 350 to 600. The rates of these latter being sufficiently liberal do not call for enhancement and will therefore remain as at present, *viz.*, Rs. 2 in the II and III standards and Rs. 4 in the IV and V standards. As regards the English classes, the existing scheme provides for 310, 95 and 23 scholarships in the Anglo-Vernacular High School and Entrance classes, respectively. Having regard to actual requirements with reference to the number of pupils of the depressed classes undergoing English education, Government are of opinion that the existing number of scholarships may be reduced and accordingly direct that the number of scholarships in these grades may be fixed at 225 in the Anglo-Vernacular classes, 45 in the High School classes and 10 in the University Entrance Class. The value of these scholarships will, however, be fixed at a higher rate than in the case of the Backward Class Scholarships of corresponding grades of education so that it may be sufficient to meet the needs of the pupils. The lumpsum allotment of Rs. 5,000 for scholarships to girls belonging to the depressed classes will be continued as heretofore but the rates of the scholarships which are now the same as for boys will also be raised to the same rates as those now sanctioned for boys.

4. The scheme of scholarships for the pupils of the depressed classes will accordingly be re-revised as in the appended statement with effect from the next year. The Inspector-General of Education is also authorised to reappropriate lapses in any grade for awarding a large number of scholarships in other grades according to actual requirements. The regrouping of communities for the distribution of Backward Class Scholarships approved in Government Order No. E. 5030-3—Edn. 142-21-4, dated the 17th February 1923 will be revised suitably. The scheme of Industrial Scholarships to pupils of depressed classes amounting to Rs. 3,500 per annum, will remain unaffected by this order.

5. The existing provision of Rs. 2,000 for clothing to pupils of the depressed classes is found to be inadequate. With a view to inculcate habits of tidiness among pupils of the depressed classes, Government consider that special measures should be adopted to ensure that these pupils are decently clothed. While the pupils in the High School and higher classes may be expected to provide themselves with decent clothing out of their scholarships it is necessary that arrangements should be made departmentally for supplying clothing to pupils in the lower classes. Government accordingly direct that while the present provision of Rs. 2,000 may be reserved for pupils of all grades who are not scholarship holders the amount of scholarships actually disbursed to pupils of the depressed classes in the Upper Primary and Middle School classes may be reduced by eight annas a month and the sum so reduced (Rs. 5 for ten months) utilised for the supply of clothing to the scholars. Similarly the whole of the scholarships in the Infant classes at eight annas per mensem (or Rs. 5 for ten months) will not be disbursed in cash but will be utilised for the supply of clothing. The authority awarding the scholarships should send the award lists to the respective Circle Inspectors or the Inspectress of schools who will draw the amount at Rs. 5 per pupil and arrange for supplying clothing to the scholarship holders in accordance with detailed instructions which should be issued by the Inspector-General of Education.

K. MATTHAN,
Chief Secretary to Government.

APPENDIX.

DEPRESSED CLASS SCHOLARSHIPS.

Grade	Number of scholarships	Present rates	Present cost per mensem	Proposed grade	Proposed rates	Proposed number	Proposed cost per mensem
		I. VERNACULAR CLASSES.					
		Rs. a. p.	Rs.		Rs. a. p.		Rs.
A. Infant classes ...	...	...	...	Infant and Vernacular classes.	0 8 0	500	250
Vernacular Primary classes from I to III standards (inclusive).	250	2 0 0	500	Vernacular Primary, II and III standards.	2 0 0	500	1,000
Vernacular Lower Secondary and IV class.	100	4 0 0	400	IV and V standards ...	4 0 0	100	400
		II. ENGLISH CLASSES.					
I and II classes ...	100	3 0 0	300	I and II classes ...	3 0 0	105	315
I Form ...	40	4 0 0	160				
II ,, ...	30	5 0 0	150	Anglo-Vernacular classes, III to V.	5 0 0	120	600
III ,, ...	25	6 0 0	150				
Anglo-Vernacular classes under the Backward Class Scheme.	115	4 0 0	460	High School classes ...	10 0 0	45	450
IV Form ...	10	8 0 0	80				
V ,, ...	10	9 0 0	90				
VI ,, ...	10	10 0 0	100	University Entrance ...	15 0 0	10	150
High School classes under Backward Class Scheme.	65	8 0 0	520				
University Entrance ...	5	15 0 0	75				
University Entrance under Backward Class Scheme.	18	10 0 0	180				
Total ...	778		3,165			1,380	4,165
B. Scholarships for Industrial Education of boys: Lumpsum.			3,500 per annum.	As at present			per annum.
C Scholarships for girls —							
I and II classes ...	...	3 0 0		I and II class ...	3 0 0		
I Form ...	...	4 0 0		III to V ,, ...	5 0 0		5,000 ,,
II ,, ...	...	5 0 0		High School classes ...	10 0 0	...	...
III ,, ...	...	6 0 0	5,000 (Lumpsum) per annum.			...	...
IV ,, ...	...	8 0 0				...	...
V ,, ...	...	9 0 0				...	...
VI ,, ...	...	10 0 0					
D. Clothing to non-scholarship holders.			2,000 per annum.	As at present.			2,000 ,,
Total ...	...	...	42,150 per annum.	...	...	...	42,150 per annum.